

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 133196

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, NATO

SUBJECT: PROCUREMENT OF ADDITIONAL ELECTROVOX SECURE

-- VOICE EQUIPMENT

REF: USNATO 2946

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTTEL, OUR POSITION WITH REGARD TO
PROCUREMENT OF ADDITIONAL ELECROVOX EQUIPMENT REMAINS IN
CONSONANCE WITH MARCH 1973 NJCEC DECISION TO HOLD PLANS
FOR EXPANSION OF THE PILOT SECURE VOICE PROGRAM (PSVP)
IN ABEYANCE PENDING RECEIPT OF RESULTS OF NICSMA DIGITALI-
ZATION STUDY. IN ADDITION, THE PILOT PROJECT IS JUST
BEING IMPLEMENTED. NATO AGREED TO THE PSVP AS A PILOT
PROJECT UPON WHICH FUTURE EXPANSION DECISIONS COULD BE
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BASED. ACCORDINGLY, WE FEEL IT IS PREMATURE TO MAKE A

DECISION ON ADDITIONAL BUYS AT THIS TIME. THE POSITION TAKEN IN THE MARCH 1975 NJCEC CORRECTLY INDICATES THE U.S. WILLINGNESS TO MAKE FURTHER PROCUREMENT; HOWEVER, SUCH PROCUREMENT MUST BE BASED UPON BEST SOLUTION TO MEET OVERALL NATO SECURE VOICE REQUIREMENTS, AND UPON RELATIVE PLACE IN COMPETITION FOR FUNDING AS POINTED OUT IN REFTEL.

2. IN VIEW OF ABOVE, THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IS PROVIDED:

A. WE WILL NOT SUPPORT PROCUREMENT OF ELECTROVOX SECURE VOICE EQUIPMENT BEYOND A TOTAL OF ABOUT 300 UNITS AT THIS TIME. THIS INCLUDES THE 50 UNITS REQUIRED TO SATISFY THE SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS BEING CONSIDERED IN MC.

B. TO ASSIST BOTH U.S. AND OTHER NATO NATIONS IN MAKING APPROPRIATE LONG-RANGE DECISIONS, MISSION SHOULD INDICATE URGENT REQUIREMENT FOR REVIEW AND VALIDATION OF THE NATO SECURE VOICE PROGRAM THAT WILL IDENTIFY:

(1) MNC, NATO AND NATIONAL CIVIL AUTHORITIES REQUIREMENTS FOR BOTH NARROW AND WIDE BAND SECURE VOICE,

(2) INTERFACE REQUIREMENTS BETWEEN NARROW AND WIDE BAND NETS, AND

(3) DEFINITIVE EXPANSION OR REAPPORTIONMENT OF PSVP OF ASSETS TO PROVIDE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTION TO OVERALL NATO SECURE VOICE NEEDS.

3. IN SUMMARY, OUR POSITION REMAINS ONE OF WITHHOLDING APPROVAL FOR PROCUREMENT OF ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENTS PENDING EVALUATION OF OPERATIONAL RESULTS OBTAINED AFTER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PILOT SECURE VOICE PROJECT, THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE NICSMA DIGITALIZATION STUDY AND INFORMATION ASKED FOR IN PARA 2B ABOVE. OUR CONCERNS INCLUDE LACK OF DEMONSTRATED CAPABILITY OF ELECTROVOX EQUIPMENTS TO PERFORM SATISFACTORILY OVER HF PATHS, AND ESCALATING COSTS OF THESE EQUIPMENTS. THE U.S. OBJECTIVE IS TO FIND THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE WAY TO MEET VALIDATED REQUIREMENTS.

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